



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Kenita V. Barrow
Chair

Mark L. Greenblatt
Vice Chair

September 16, 2015

Waiver 15-08-012

Pursuant to § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) of the Public Ethics Law, a public employee must not be employed by a business that negotiates or contracts with the County agency with which the public employee is affiliated, unless the Ethics Commission grants a waiver.

Laura Begosh, is a Program Manager/Mental Health Specialist for the Child and Adolescent School and Community Based Services program at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She requests a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) so that she can be employed by Aspire Counseling Child Center and Adult Services, Inc. D/B/A Aspire Counseling as a therapist in Aspire Counseling's outpatient mental health clinic.

Aspire Counseling operates several different programs. DHHS has a contract with Aspire Counseling that relates to Aspire Counseling's Perinatal/Postpartum Depression project. Ms. Begosh's proposed employment as a therapist in the outpatient mental health clinic does not involve that project. Thus her work at Aspire Counseling is unrelated to Aspire Counseling's contract with Montgomery County. Also, in her position with the County, Ms. Begosh will not be making any decisions related to the contract that Montgomery County has with Aspire Counseling.

Pursuant to § 19A-8(b)(3) of the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission may grant a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b) if the Ethics Commission concludes that the proposed employment is not likely to create an actual conflict of interest. Upon a review of the request and the Department's concurrence in and support for the waiver request, the Commission finds that there is no actual conflict of interest. Pursuant to the standard of § 19A-8(b)(3), the Commission grants the waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b). The waiver is conditioned on Ms. Begosh recusing herself from providing services for Aspire Counseling involving a person she knows to be a client of DHHS; furthermore, Ms. Begosh may not, in her official capacity, refer DHHS clients to Aspire Counseling.

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In reaching this decision, the Commission has relied upon the facts as presented by Ms. Begosh.

For the Commission:



Kenita V. Barrow